Mary Sheridan

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EDC 102

FAE Chapt 5 reflection

Essentialism is one educational philosophy that appeals to me most. One of the things that attracts me most to essentialism are the three basic principles. I personally think that although teachers should never act as dictators by any means, the students still need to be well aware that the teacher is the boss. I am the type of student who learns best by modeling my superiors, and I think it is so important to have a large amount of respect for the teacher. There are few things in life that frustrate me more than kids who go to school and don’t put any effort forth. The point of going to school is to learn and get an education and I think that’s why I agree with essentialism so much. I also really admire the idea of developing good citizens. While yes school is about learning and getting an education I also do think it goes way farther than the notebooks and textbooks. I really like how essentialism emphasizes the importance of learning, but also how important it is for the teacher to teach the students what they need to learn. Like I mentioned earlier, I am the type of person that learns best from example. I feel like part of that has to do with the fact that I am the baby of my family and have always looked up to my older siblings. I know last class we were discussing about how students should enjoy school, they should thoroughly want to learn whatever the subject matter is which I totally agree with. On the other hand, I realize that life doesn’t work that way and it’s not always going to be easy and fun. I believe that giving exams is really the only way to test students’ knowledge which is another reason I agree with essentialism as an educational philosophy.

Behaviorism is another educational philosophy that matches my own feelings about schooling. When I read about behaviorism I automatically thought about the different psychology classes I have taken. It reminds me especially of the nature vs. nurture debate. Obviously, behaviorism agrees with the nurture side of that debate, but it just makes me wonder and gets me thinking about that whole topic again. I think behaviorism would be a perfect approach for an elementary school teacher. Younger students are definitely more likely to behave properly and do what they are asked if they are in a learning environment that they desire. I know even at my age now the concept of reinforcement works for me and I always want to follow and model whichever behavior is being rewarded. I’ve learned about positive and negative reinforcement and several other of my classes and I’ve also learned about vicarious reinforcement. I did not see this concept in the reading, but I know it definitely would fit under behaviorism and if I were a teacher that followed this philosophy I would 100% incorporate it into my teaching. Vicarious reinforcement is defined as: through observing others, a person can learn a behavior and also acquire the motivation to perform the behavior or resist performing that behavior depending on what is observed about the consequences of that behavior. An example of this would be if students were supposed to be silent reading and all but one of the students were doing what the teacher asked of them, the teacher could do something like hand out stickers to the students who were behaving appropriately. The student who was not silent reading would most likely get right back on task because he or she too wanted the sticker. I see it in a way as being slightly similar to bribery, but I also think that sometimes that is necessary especially when it is younger students. The way I look at it is, more they are positively reinforced, the more likely that they will eventually learn to behave and act appropriately on their own.